

**AMHERST REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
MINUTES
July 14, 2010**

LOCATION: First Floor Meeting Room, Town Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Coull, Aaron Hayden, Lawrence Kelley, Margaret Roberts. Member Jeanne Traester was absent.

OTHERS PRESENT: Joan Burgess, David Bryne, John Fox, Judy Seacrest, Ernie Rubenstein, Alicia Rubenstein, Seymour Friedman

STAFF PRESENT: Larry Shaffer (Town Manager), Jonathan Tucker (Planning Director)

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m.

Executive Session

The Authority voted unanimously (4-0) by individual tally vote to go into Executive Session.

The Authority voted unanimously (4-0) by individual tally vote to come out of Executive Session and reopen the public session at 7:50 p.m.

Minutes

The minutes of May 26 were approved unanimously (4-0) with minor amendments.

Old Business

Site Visits – There were no updates on the planned site visits.

Gateway RFP – Mr. Tucker introduced and summarized the draft RFP, noting that it was incomplete and spoke only to the proposed process. The Authority reviewed the document at length. Mr. Hayden noted that he recognized the proposed charrette process from the Master Plan process.

New Business

Public Comment – Mr. Coull solicited comments from the members of the public present.

Mr. Wolnik asked that the July 30 field trip be posted as a meeting, and include the address of the meeting site in Hanover, NH. He asked that there be a bus or van available and a sign-up procedure for interested citizens.

Mr. Fox asked that the ARA minutes be brought up to date so citizens could keep track of the ARA's deliberations, and asked if neighbors would have an opportunity to meet with the consultant (once hired). Mr. Coull said they would, and that the minutes would be attended to.

Ms. Burgess asked for a copy of the draft RFP.

Mr. Bryne repeated Mr. Fox's request for up-to-date minutes. He noted that Husky Village in Storrs, CT was on campus. It contained 13 fraternities and sororities. The ARA would be viewing it during the summer. It might be quite different during the fall semester. Mr. Coull replied that the intent was to talk to Town leaders and UConn administrators about how things were working.

Mr. Fox said that the expectation of increased tax revenue from the Gateway project seemed to be critical. He asked how soon estimates of that revenue could be expected. Mr. Coull replied that that would be "quite some ways down the road" since the Authority had as yet no idea of what the project would include. Mrs. Roberts said that the mix of uses made a difference in terms of property taxes. Mr. Fox said he was talking about a baseline—anticipated costs vs. revenue.

Mr. Bryne said that Husky Village was very small and not comparable to anything in Amherst. He suggested looking at Binghamton, New York.

Mr. Coull said to watch the website.

Mrs. Roberts asked that the rest of the RFP be ready for the next meeting, and that interactions with the Planning Board re rezoning be considered.

Next Meetings

The next meeting was confirmed for July 28.

Adjournment

Mr. Hayden moved, Mr. Kelley seconded, and the Authority voted unanimously (4-0) to adjourn at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Laurence Kelley, Clerk

Approved:

ARA Chair